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SUMMER

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NEWS BITS

THE COST OF ETHICS

Colleges that refuse to invest in companies which do business in segregationist South Africa, or which grow tobacco, tend to earn less money than those that invest strictly for profit, University of Akron Professor Samuel Mueller said in a new study.

Ethical investing, Mueller found, makes better politics than profit. Mueller studied the five-year performance of 10 mutual funds boasting "ethical" pledges not to invest in various liquor, tobacco and gambling stocks, polluters or companies doing business with repressive regimes.

He found that nine of the 10 funds generated returns on investment about 10 percent lower than the average rate for ordinary funds with comparable investment goals.

"Investing in those (ethical) funds is not a disaster," Mueller said, "But, on the other hand, you won't get rich."

None of the funds studied were college funds, but Mueller said the results would be similar.

From 1985—during which occurred the height of U.S. student protest of South African apartheid—through 1989, 87 schools either revised old investment policies or adopted new ones to sell off shares in companies that had an economic interest in South Africa, the Investor Responsibility Research Center reports.

More recently, Harvard University and City University of New York announced in May they would no longer invest their endowment funds in tobacco stocks.

"This study shows that if you want to invest based on your principles, you'd better recognize in advance that you are unlikely to outperform the market over the long term," Mueller said.

COLLEGE PAYS

College graduates earn more during their lifetimes than students who stop going to class after high school, and have much higher employment rates, the American Council on Education (ACE) reported in a series of new studies released in mid-July.

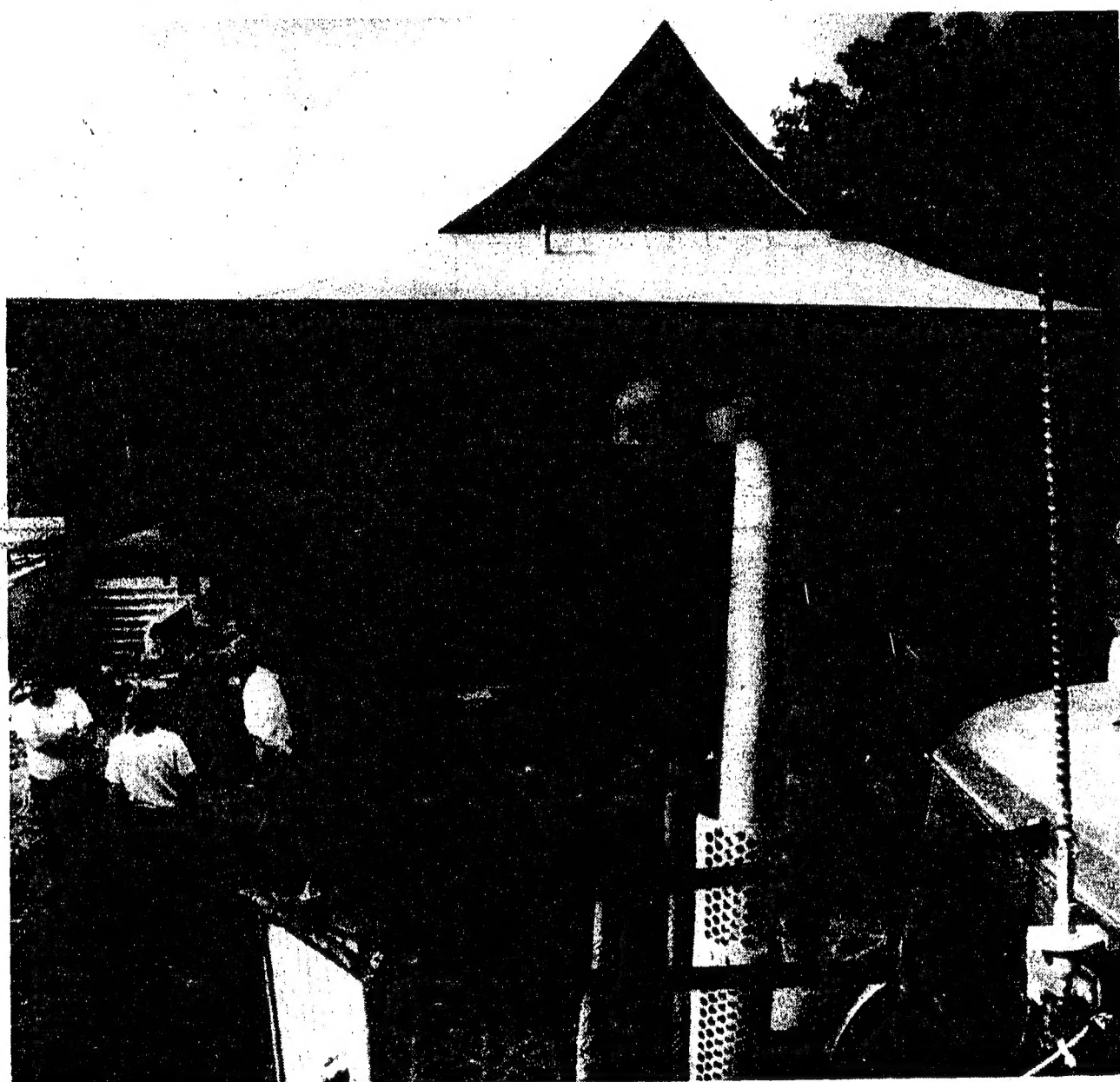
Males with college degrees earned an average of \$37,854 a year in 1987, compared to males with only high school diplomas, who earned an average of \$25,394, said ACE research chief Elaine El-Khawas.

However, "disparities between the salaries of women and men and minorities and whites with similar educational backgrounds continue to exist," she added.

Female college grads, for example, earned an average of \$25,645, while female high school grads earned \$16,461.

COMPILED FROM COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

MOBILE HOME



Working crews Thursday prepare Annex 22 for removal.

Professor, annex gets new home

BY KENT WALTON

Mother Nature put a temporary halt in the relocation of UNO's former Fine Arts Gallery.

Plans to move the gallery, Annex 22, to its new home at 70th Avenue and Dodge Street were put on hold, due to thunderstorms that blew through Omaha Thursday.

The 3,000-square-foot building was purchased from the university by UNO professor of electronics engineering technology Bing Chen for an estimated \$2,500.

Chen said additional costs will bring the total price of moving the building to about \$25,000.

In order to compensate for the height of the building, Chen said, power lines along Dodge Street will have to be taken down.

The Omaha Public Power District, US West Communications and Cox Cable of Omaha also are assisting in the move, according to Chen.

He saved his new home from the wrecking ball because he hated to see a unique piece of architecture destroyed.

"It is an excellent example of taking an existing energy hog and converting it for energy conservation," Chen said, adding that the design of the structure allows it to utilize passive solar energy.

Moving will be done by Scribner House Moving of David City, Neb.

According to the owner of the company, David Scribner, moving the house will take several steps.

The first part of the procedure, replacing the existing concrete foundation with

a temporary steel structure, was accomplished earlier this week.

After the house was placed on the steel foundation, it was raised onto a truck and held into place by four hydraulic cranes.

Moving was rescheduled for early this weekend if the weather cooperates, Chen said.

Formerly a private residence at its present location, the home was purchased by the westward-expanding university in December 1971, when it became the Fine Arts Gallery.

Although plans for a new Fine Arts Building have been approved, the groundbreaking date has not been announced. □

'A pretty good ballpark guess'

Student Government faces \$100,000 question

By DAVE MANNING

Money, or the lack of it, always has been a problem for governments. UNO's Student Government, however, has a problem with too much money.

Its spending stifled twice by the opinions of University of Nebraska Assistant General Counsel John Wiltse, Student Government's coffers are overflowing.

While the federal government's deficit is counted in billions, at least Student Government's abundance is only in the thousands.

"I think \$100,000 is a pretty good ballpark guess," Student Senate Speaker Mary Reynolds said.

While Student Government officers volunteer their time, and student organizations go unfunded, the money has added up to what seems to be an overwhelming amount.

Half the amount is tied up in an interest-earning reserve account, and has been for several years, according to Student Government Executive Treasurer Cheryl

Carter.

"It's a safety net," she said. "If our enrollment would go dramatically down, we would have to start spending that."

MONEY FROM STUDENT FEES

Student Government allocates student fees, better known as University Program and Facilities Fees (UPFF). Divided two ways, into Fund A and Fund B, the UPFF totals \$54.75 per student per semester.

Fund A, which Student Government controls, amounts to \$7.50 and covers the funding of Student Government and its agencies (Women's Resource Center, American Multicultural Students, Disabled Students Agency, International Student Services and the Student Programming Organization [SPO]) as well as the Gateway.

If student enrollment decreases, so does the amount of Fund A monies Student Government can allocate. Carter said the \$50,000 in reserve only can be used in such an instance.

The other \$50,000, though, can be spent by the senate, following the approval of the president/regent and the administration.

For example, all funds put in the reserve account over and above the \$50,000 "safety net" can be accessed by Student Government, via the Student Senate, at any time.

To beat the end of the fiscal year June 30, the Student Senate voted to move about half of the 1989-90 contingency fund into the reserve account, making it accessible immediately.

The balance of the fund will roll over into this year's budget in the fall, Carter said.

IDEAS ON HOW TO SPEND THE MONEY

Currently, the excess is more than \$33,000, although Carter said \$2,100 has been set aside to hire a part-time worker for Student Government's typing center.

"We've got other ideas on how to spend it," she added, including the establish-

ment of a local-area computer network for Student Government and the agencies.

The extra money, however, didn't appear overnight.

The "problem" began in the fall of 1988 when UNO students rejected a resolution to pay stipends to Student Government officers.

The officers' stipends, including those of the directors of Student Government's agencies, traditionally had been put to a UNO constituency vote.

AN ERROR IN WORDING

The resolution, incorrectly worded due to an error by then-Election Commissioner Paul Hays, included the five agency directors as Student Government officers.

The resolution was resubmitted to the student body on a president/regent runoff ballot, and summarily was refused again.

In March 1989, Student Government

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

No delay expected for aviation program's fall-semester arrival

By TIM ROHWER

It's up, up, up and away for UNO's Aviation Institute.

The newly formed program will begin courses this fall, both in the classroom and in the air, according to Director William Shea.

"This is an exciting, wonderful time," Shea said. "We will be providing an opportunity for aviation as a career, as well as being competitive in the aviation-training industry."

Three courses will be held at Omaha's Eppley Airfield, giving students actual flying experience, according to Shea.

In an introductory course called "Private Pilot," students will learn solo flying, flight maneuvers and take-off and landing procedures.

Shea said this course will help prepare students to earn a private pilot's license.

The other two Eppley Airfield courses will cater to more advanced students, Shea said. They will go into more detail on a wide range of subjects, including flying in various weather conditions.

In the near future, these three courses may be only the beginning of an extensive flight program, according to Shea.

"We hope to add other courses within the next year or two," Shea said, "including a multi-engine class."

But not all the aviation courses are "up in the air."

Classroom courses — including Aviation Safety, Aviation Law, Airline Operations and general introductory classes — will be held in UNO's Allwine Hall, Shea said.

"This class (Aviation Safety) will teach good safety habits," he said. "Safety is probably the most important feature in aviation. It means being in good physical shape, knowing the elements of aerodynamics, understanding the weather, and so much more."

Shea said Aviation Law will focus on aviation-related legislative decisions, such as the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978, and Airline Operations will feature prominent guest speakers throughout the semester.

Aviation will be available to students as a major or minor, according to Shea.

About 50 students already have expressed interest in the program; an "impressive" figure since the program hasn't even marketed itself yet, he said.

And Shea is not the only one who seems "impressed."

The Aviation Institute received national attention Monday when Federal Aviation Administration officials named UNO as the newest sight for an Aviation Education Resource Center.

The FAA will provide the materials for the center, including aviation publications and plans to increase the level of support with additional publications, films, videotapes and other resource materials.

"Even though the program was formed only a few months ago, officials from around the country are calling us every week seeking advice. It's an outstanding reflection on our program," Shea said. "The center will contribute immeasurably in providing young people with the latest up-to-date information. We are honored." □



—ERIC FRANCIS

Window warrior It wasn't exactly another boring day at the office for John Reid of Ambassador Window Services. Reid scaled the walls of the Peter Kiewit Conference Center while washing windows Wednesday.

Ph.D's added to role and mission

By KENT WALTON

UNO has a new mission.

More than a decade after UNO's direction was last defined in a role and mission statement, the recently proposed changes in its master plan, according to UNO Chancellor Del Weber, are long overdue.

"It was a long time coming," Weber said. "The (outdated) statement no longer reflected the role and mission of UNO and the other campus entities."

Once approved, Weber said, the updated role and mission statement will serve as a general guideline for planning UNO's future.

"It's a blueprint. It will set forth those boundaries and parameters that says where the institution is going to expend its energies," he said.

According to Weber, the changes are currently in a planning phase on the campus level, and will become official if passed by the Regents at their September meeting.

The Board of Regents must approval process of any changes in role and mission of the three campuses in the NU system.

But according to Regent John Payne, the regents do not play a part in the planning process.

"We are there just to monitor and make sure that things don't get too technical," Payne said. "For example, I don't think it would be right for UNO to plan for a law school in their role and mission."

Payne said demand should be the motivation for any changes in the role and mission of a university.

One major addition to the statement is the plan for doctoral programs at UNO.

"At the time of the original statement, it was not the intention of UNO to get into doctoral programs," Weber

said. "The fact of the matter is doctoral programs are now spelled out in the new one."

According to the draft of the statement given to the chancellor's office Wednesday for approval, advancements at UNO have led to a need for more doctoral programs.

These advancements include a greater emphasis on research and creative activity.

In addition to emphasizing more doctoral programs, Weber said other additions include increased concentration in the international studies area and the university's role in the state's economic development.

UNO has a responsibility to use its resources and expertise to provide leadership in solving the community's problems and supporting its development, the draft states.

Although not specifically mentioned in the latest role and mission draft, Weber said UNO's proposed Center for Information Technology is a good example of UNO's role in economic advancement.

Despite working with an outdated set of guidelines, Payne said, UNO has been successful in fulfilling the goals that were set 13 years ago in the last role and mission statement.

"I think UNO has done a very adequate job of establishing a role and mission and refining it through the years," Payne said.

Weber also said he believes UNO was successful in meeting the expectations outlined in the last statement, but he said he wants to see revisions made more frequently.

"Now was just the time for it," Weber said. "But it really should be updated more often than every 13 years." □

New role and mission should take the university well into its middle age

OUR VIEW

It's about time.

Back in 1977, when UNO was barely 8 years old (at least within the University of Nebraska family), it developed a statement of purpose for itself, a plan for its future.

The NU system's youngest child, like any child, grew up — going through its teen years with typical turmoils and successes.

The budget was cut, but it didn't stunt UNO's growth. Now, as any visitor to the campus can see, the child is an adult.

UNO has matured and administrators discovered that the role and mission outlined 13 years ago needed a few revisions.

One of the biggest changes in UNO's role and mission statement is the need for more doctoral programs at UNO.

If people had been paying attention, they would have remembered the *Gateway* has stated a number of times, in both articles and editorials, why increasing doctoral programs would be beneficial to UNO. For this reason, we'll refrain from harping on that point again.

Instead, let's concentrate on other changes in UNO's role and mission statement. Chancellor Del Weber said besides increased doctoral programs at UNO, the university plans to increase concentration in the international studies area and increase UNO's role in the state's economic development.

These two areas definitely could use some heightened involvement at the uni-

versity level.

With all the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and around the world, it seems obvious that people, students included, would be more and more interested in international studies.

Also with new markets opening up overseas, more attention to international studies could lead to more business for Nebraska corporations, as well as attracting overseas businesses to the Midlands.

So it just goes to show that it never hurts to know a little bit about the world around you. You never know — it might even help you get a job someday.

Of course, those of us who are Nebraska natives may have an easier time understanding why UNO needs to become more involved with the state's economic development.

Although part of this could reflect sincere concern for the well-being of the state, it all goes back to money.

If UNO helps increase Nebraska's economic development by creating new jobs, more people will move to the state.

And we all know what that means — more people to pay taxes. With more people paying taxes, UNO's budget could increase.

No matter what the ultimate goal is for enhancing UNO's role in Nebraska's economic development, the university deserves commendation. These steps will help define not only the future of UNO, but also the state. □



FICTION

SIXTH IN A 10-PART SERIES ON THE FICTIONAL DEATH OF AMANDA C. (EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE)

By L. HANSON EVERETT

Ten-year-old Kala was swinging as high as she could when she saw the man watching her.

He was in the same spot he had been for the previous three days: peeking from behind the tall bushes just outside the fenced-in playground.

He was a short, bespectacled man, who seemed harmless to Kala as she swung high into the clear blue sky, her legs extended and hands tightly clenched to the chains.

Her long, curly blonde hair waved through the air as she pumped, keeping her soft gray eyes fixed on the mysterious stranger.

Kala was a beautiful child, full of excitement and energy. She was envied by the other children in her fifth-grade class; everyone wished to be friends with her, and her teachers admired her enthusiasm, despite her poor academic scores.

From behind the bushes, Mathilde Burke was fascinated with the handsome young child. He had been at the school-yard playground for the past three days watching her, wondering why Amanda C. gave up the child.

He had found Kala's adoptive mother's address on the letter he took from Amanda's apartment. Kala lived

in a large brownstone in the wealthier section of a bustling metropolis.

He had sat in his car outside the brownstone for several days, watching Kala leave for school with her mother, Carol.

She was a tall, elegant woman who operated a thriving art gallery. Carol was successful, smart with money, always making wise investment decisions.

She had provided for Kala all the luxuries a child could wish for: long European trips in the summer, expensive private schools, a life surrounded with the best cultural influences.

She wanted Amanda's child to have everything. Kala deserved it.

As the other children slowly began to leave the playground, their parents or nannies picking them up, Kala continued to fly through the hot August air.

Her baby-sitter, an Asian exchange student, was already one hour late, and Kala decided that today she would walk home from school by herself.

She dragged her feet in the sand, bringing the swing to a stop, and grabbed her book bag.

As she walked through the gate of the playground, Kala saw the strange man duck farther into the bushes. She turned the corner, heading for home.

Mathilde watched as Kala moved down the street. With sweat pouring from his forehead, he decided today, since she was alone, he would follow her.

Without looking back, Kala could feel the man behind her. She began to walk faster and quickly turned the next corner.

Mathilde stopped. He wasn't sure if he should continue following the child. He began to wonder if he was losing his grip on reality, if the nightmares about Amanda were beginning to control him. He wanted to turn around and go back to Wrightville. But he had to speak to Amanda's daughter. Maybe she had some clue to Amanda's death.

As he turned the corner, Mathilde was face to face with the child.

She had stopped. She peered into his eyes. Mathilde could not speak.

Kala reached into her book bag, pulling out a wilting red rose, and handed it to Mathilde.

And then the child collapsed on the sidewalk. □

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Interested in filling this space in the fall? *The Gateway* currently is taking writing samples and applications for columnist positions. Stop by Annex 26 today and beat the rush.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Interested in filling this space now? *The Gateway* always is looking for letters. If you want to voice your opinion, spew senseless babble or ask us for directions, send your letter to Annex 26 -- just make sure it follows the guidelines below.

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Letters must be signed using the first and last name or initials and the last name. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number, although this information will not be published. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication. □

'Tenured Radicals:' another attack on education

Once again, a conservative blast at the state of higher education has become a bestselling book.

In what has become a series of critiques started in the mid '80s by Allan Bloom's "Closing of the American Mind," E.D. Hirsch Jr.'s "Cultural Literacy" and Charles Sykes' "Profscam," this year's "Tenured Radicals" asserts college humanities courses are now weighted down by "politically correct" but irrelevant books.

"The humanities has become a battleground for special interests and minorities," contends author Roger Kimball, a former college instructor who now edits *The New Criterion*.

Kimball restates many of former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett's accusations that campus administrators, afraid of offending students, have knuckled under to collegians' demands that female and black thinkers be added to classroom text lists, sometimes at the expense of long-studied white male intellectuals.

However, the book, like its predecessors, is not on many professors' favorite summer reading lists.

"It's the hostility towards education being created by these turkeys" that upsets Mark Taylor, a religious studies professor and humanities center director at Williams College in Massachusetts.

"Tenured Radicals" specifically attacks a humanities seminar at Williams.

"This (book) means nothing to Stanford. We can't take these things seriously," said Charles Junkerman, assistant dean of undergraduate studies at Stanford University.

Like Bennett, Kimball centers much of his argument on the idea that "wimpy" administrators are muddling humanities courses with popular, but essentially unimportant, books on Stanford's 1989 reform of its "Western Civilization" requirement.

Kimball also criticizes Yale, Duke, Johns Hopkins and Brown universities, and the University of California-Berkeley, for supposedly altering their courses to accommodate political pressures.

Stanford's new "Culture, Ideas and Values" requirement, adopted after two years of debate by various faculty groups, still has students studying traditional scholars, but also incorporates female and minority writers into the reading list.

WATERED-DOWN COURSES

Upon hearing of it, though, Bennett—who now heads

the Bush administration's anti-drug effort—called the new curriculum "an unfortunate capitulation to a campaign of pressure politics and intimidation."

The argument struck a chord among other people worried that such changes, like the liberal "relevancy" movement which 20 years ago convinced some colleges to let students drop academically rigorous language, math and literature requirements in favor of self-designed courses, would dilute the value of higher education.

"(Humanities courses) are increasingly being watered down" or students just don't have time to take the courses, agreed Les Lenkowsky of the Institute for Educational Affairs (IEA), which was so impressed with the critique that it supplied grant money to Kimball to write "Tenured Radicals."

The IEA, which also helps fund politically conservative newspapers on more than 30 campus around the country, was struck by student writers' discontent with the courses.

"We find that many students are propelled into a (conservative) student newspaper because college is not what they thought it would be," Lenkowsky said.

FEARFUL WORK

Kimball adds, "There's recognition on the students' part that humanities courses are not addressing traditional issues. The trivialization and politicization of humanities turns students away."

He proposes stripping women's and black studies courses from curricula in favor of more study of "traditional" authors such as Shakespeare, Milton and Marx.

In 1989, the National Endowment for the Humanities published a suggested core curriculum for colleges, which would include 50 hours of "cultures and civilization," math, foreign language, social science and natural science.

Many educators disagree.

"There ain't no going back," Taylor said. "These guys can call for a return to tradition until hell freezes over. In my experience, the best and the brightest (students) are doing exactly the kind of work Kimball is afraid of."

A fair number of students seems to share Taylor's feelings, as Kimball himself noted at a spring lecture he gave at Williams.

"Publicly, every single comment (toward me) was hostile," Kimball said.

Kimball reported that the students questioned why they should study western civilization when it was responsible for many of the world's ills, a theory the author disputes.

"There was an awful lot of disagreement with his basic premises, especially his premise that they (the students) had not been exposed to great works," recalled Williams spokesman Jim Kolefar.

Stanford's Junkerman said that while the book had not caused a stir on his campus, "the fact that there's a market for this sort of book is something universities should be aware of."

Cynthia Barrett, the book's publisher, speculated that the popularity of books such as "Tenured Radicals" and "Profscam" is two fold.

"America's concern about the state of education in general is more widespread," Barrett said, adding a clash between minority and majority interests may be coming to a head.

However, while the public may be buying the book, few scholars admit they have.

CHANGE BEGETS CRIES

"Nobody's bought it (at Stanford) as far as I know," said Junkerman, who added that he had only read the part of the book which discussed Stanford.

Taylor also claimed to have read only the section about Williams College.

Jonathan Knight, associate secretary of the American Association of University Professors, said he did not think the book would cause controversy on college campuses.

"I suspect for lots of people it (their reactions) will be 'ho-hum,'" Knight said.

"Universities are always changing, and any change brings with it cries from those who say we're in the middle of a moral crisis," he added.

Annette Kolodny, dean of the humanities faculty at University of Arizona, said she has found "a practical way for an administration to counter the otherwise retrograde impact of books like Kimball's and Bloom's."

"I have offered a \$5,000 scholarship to any department or program at the University of Arizona that wishes to reconceptualize its curriculum for the 21st century." □

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ALTERNATIVE APPETITE

Vegetarians adjust to supplement their meatless diets

By SARAH SMOCK

Picture this. You sit down to Thanksgiving dinner and look at the array of delicious foods covering the table — yams, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie. But where's the main dish?

For most people, the finishing touch on the Thanksgiving table is an evenly-browned, juicy turkey. But what if the main dish for next year's meal wasn't turkey, but tofu?

For those who choose to follow a vegetarian diet, questions like this one must be thought about in advance.

According to Mary Trumble, a registered dietitian who works in the outpatient nutrition clinic at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, there are three types of vegetarians: lacto-ova vegetarians, who consume both dairy products and eggs; lacto vegetarians, who consume dairy products; and vegan vegetarians, who do not consume any products which come from animals. Trumble said very few people follow the vegan diet.

Many Americans see meat as an integral part of their diet, but according to Trumble, people don't need meat to stay healthy.

"To me, as a dietitian, there are no bad foods. The amount of foods you eat is what can be detrimental," she said. "For example, four eggs a week is not considered detrimental."

Trumble said many people begin following a vegetarian diet because of the guidelines it sets up for a low-fat diet.

Vegetarian diets can be quite healthy, Trumble said, but they also have their drawbacks.

"The more foods people eliminate, the harder people have to work to get the proper nutrients," she said. "It also gets repetitive, because food choices are limited."

The recommended daily allowance of foods for vegetarians includes four servings of milk, two servings of legumes, one serving of nuts, six servings of whole grain or enriched breads and cereals, three servings of vitamin C-rich foods and one serving of dark green vegetables.

"This may sound like a lot, but vegetarians need to consume a lot of calories so they don't lose weight and get the proper nutrients," Trumble said.

Trumble also recommends that vegetarians take a multi-vitamin which contains iron.

"It's not going to hurt," she said. "It's always a possibility that you are not going to get two servings of legumes or dairy products. It's a nice back up."

Chuck Kunkel, a 20-year vegetarian, agreed that vitamins can help supplement a vegetarian diet, but said he doesn't spend a lot of time worrying about what he eats.

"I take vitamins," he said. "I just eat foods I like, and that generally sustains me."

Kunkel said he became a vegetarian mainly because of the influence of people he was living with at the time.

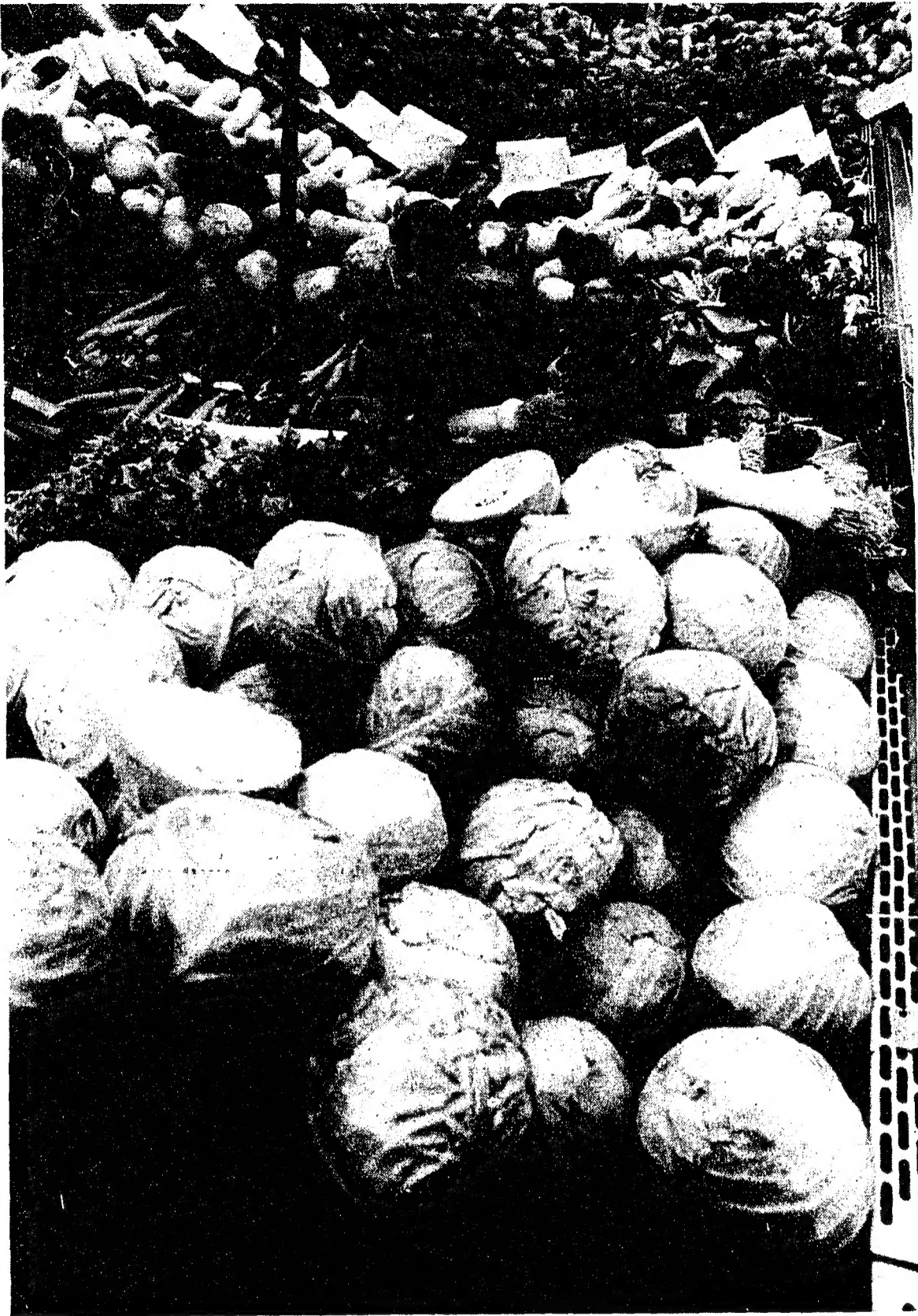
"I encountered some people who were vegetarians, and it made me stop and think about it," he said.

Childhood memories also had an effect on Kunkel's feelings about animal products.

"I remember watching chickens hatch from eggs as a kid. I didn't want to eat them for a while after that," Kunkel said.

Most people become vegetarians for health reasons, or because they are against the principle of killing animals. Trumble said many people seem to incorporate both arguments into their reason for becoming a vegetarian. Kunkel is one person who seems to combine the two ideas.

"If people had to go to a slaughter house to pick up the leg they wanted from a cow, and it was hanging there dripping blood, they would probably go get some carrots



—ERIC FRANCIS

Veggies, veggies, veggies For vegetarians, the produce aisle becomes the main stopping point of the grocery store. Dieticians recommend that vegetarians daily consume three servings of food rich in vitamin C, as well as one serving of dark green vegetables.

instead," he said. "It (eating meat) becomes gruesome if you give it some thought."

Kunkel, who is 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighs about 220 pounds, helps dispel the myth that all vegetarians are rail-thin, anemic-looking hippies. Since he has been a vegetarian for so long now, Kunkel said it was hard to speculate about what his health might be like if he had consumed meat.

"All I can say is that if I wasn't doing it, I wouldn't feel good," Kunkel said. "Healthwise, I can't really speculate, because it has been so many years."

Trumble said there has not been a lot of research about the long-term effects of vegetarian diets, but said research has been done on members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This religious group follows a vegetarian diet and has been shown to have less incidences of heart disease and cancer. This research is not conclusive, however, because Seventh-day Adventists also do not drink alcohol or smoke, according to Trumble.

Both Trumble and Kunkel said they have noticed more

people beginning to adopt vegetarian practices, and restaurants have begun to offer more vegetarian choices in the last few years.

"Some people follow vegetarian guidelines about two days a week, and then a regular diet the rest of the week," Trumble said.

Kunkel's wife and five-year-old daughter do not follow a vegetarian diet.

"We have a lot of microwave food," he said. "I might have a cheese and tomato sandwich, while they have ham and cheese."

Trumble said she does not recommend a vegetarian diet for growing children because of the difficulty involved in getting the nutrients found in animal products.

Kunkel said he plans to let his daughter make her own decision about whether or not to become a vegetarian.

Although he believes some people become vegetarians before they have really thought their decision through, Kunkel said he eventually committed himself to the diet for personal reasons.

"It's my life, and I'm doing it for myself," he said. □



This Says it All Freshman orientation continues through July 31.

About 900 incoming students to participate in freshman orientation

By ELIZABETH OMMACHEN

Joseph Hall said he believes in meeting people at the front door with an honest approach.

"Less than half of these freshmen (going through orientation) will graduate from UNO," said Hall, director of orientation

and multicultural affairs. "Orientation is about retention and trying to make a difference.

"One of the things that will prevent these students from being successful here is the lack of motivation," he said.

Freshman orientation began Thurs-

day and runs through July 31. Hall said about 900 incoming freshmen will participate in the program. However, not all freshman are eligible for orientation, and Hall estimates the 1990 UNO freshman class at 2,500.

During a pre-orientation academic

planning seminar for students and parents, orientation student leaders addressed the motivation obstacle and shared "helpful hints" on how to be a successful university student during a skit about "the troubled student."

Hall said the skits and discussions provided the freshmen with valuable information about UNO's Learning Center, computer labs, counseling and Health Services and much more.

"Here on campus, it takes a few weeks to learn all that," Hall said. "And sometimes that's too late."

Whether students who attend orientation are more prepared for college life than those who do not is difficult to evaluate, according to Hall. But by providing these students with the tools of the trade, orientation, and everyone who played a part in it, contributes to the potential success of these students.

Hall called the orientation leaders "highly motivated, talent students" and said they played a major role in the "tremendous success" of the 1990 orientation.

But their job is far from finished.

Orientation will continue for two weeks, with more academic planning sessions and informational opportunities.

Hall said the increased numbers of students on the first day of orientation, July 19, may reflect an overall increase in oriented-students.

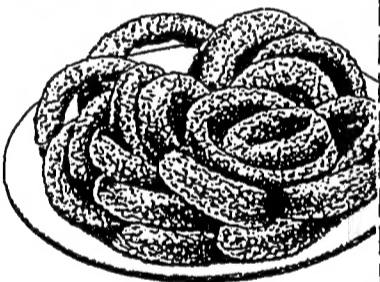
Designated for athletes, honors students, scholarship recipients and Goodrich Program students, this year's orientation figures showed a 50 percent rise — to 300 students — from last year's 200 participants.

One controversial part of the academic planning seminar seemed to revolve

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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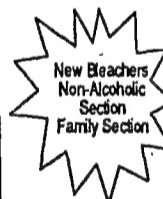
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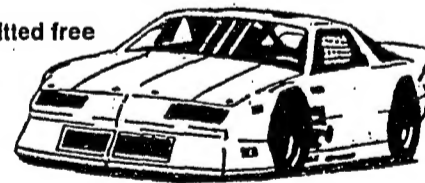
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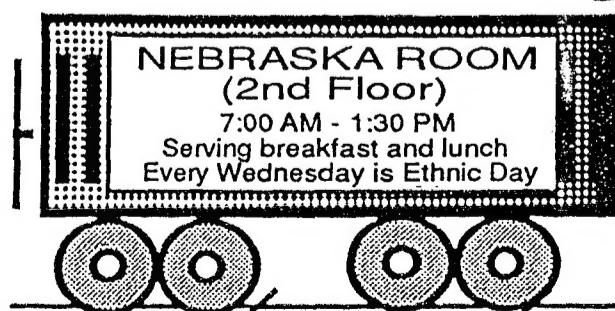
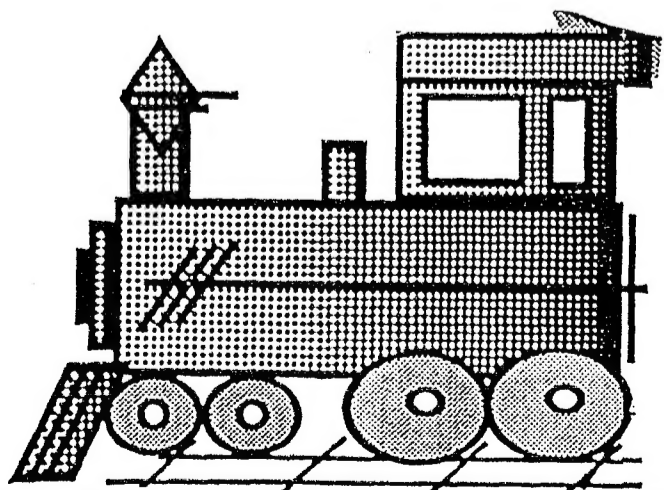
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around a skit regarding cultural diversity, written and directed by local actress/playwright Laura Partridge Nedds.

"We think it's very important to address the issue of cultural diversity at the front door," Hall said. "It makes sense to us, because three out of 10 people in the work force will be non-white."

Hall said some students disliked Nedds's skit, adding that they shouldn't have been "forced" to watch it.

"Many of these students have not had that experience," Hall said. "And we want them to know that this campus is (culturally aware), and if it isn't, that's where we want it to go."

Although some students were upset by the skit, Hall said many praised it for its direct approach to a relevant societal and university-related issue.

However, he did not consider this skit to be a "major part" of orientation activities.

"I don't consider one part of the program more important than any other," he said.

However, he said information opportunities, such as a presentation by Dean of International Studies and Programs Tom Gouttierre, are significant parts of the orientation process.

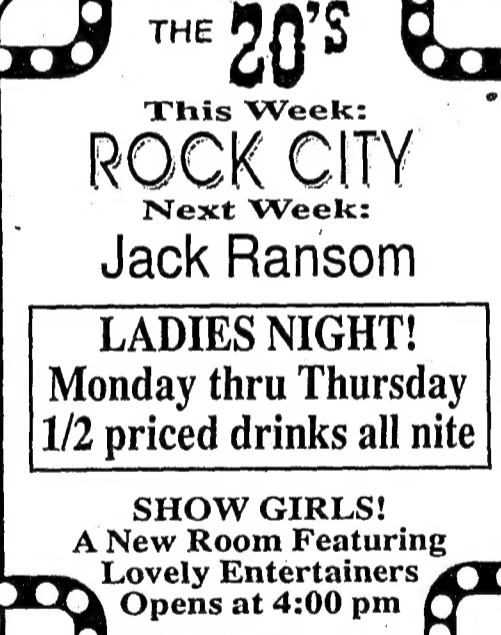
"We have a problem here on this campus," Hall said. "Because it's nonresidential, that leads to misconceptions about studying abroad, research and international opportunities." □

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Drum and bugle corps hit the field Monday

BY ROBERT LEVELS

And you thought drum and bugle corps were only for high schools and colleges. Well, Monday will provide a chance for people to experience drum and bugle corps in a new capacity — without a football team running onto the field behind them.

"Drums Across the Midlands" is returning to Omaha on Monday, July 23.

"Drums Across the Midlands" is a competition featuring drum and bugle corps from around the country. This event will feature the Omaha corps the Railmen.

The group was founded in 1939 by the Union Pacific Railroad. The corps was mainly a parade unit filled with the children of Union Pacific employees until 1983, when it began entering competitions.

National competitions the Railmen are involved in are sponsored by Drum Corps International (DCI), which was formed to cultivate and encourage national growth of the drum and bugle corps activity.

In seven competitive years, the Railmen have become three-time DCI Midwest Champions, placed as high as third in Class A at the DCI World Championships, and

in 1989 became part of DCI's elite top 25.

According to Helen Jordon, a member of the Railmen's board of directors, Monday's competition is unique because it will feature seven different corps, all of which are part of DCI's top 25. This show and others like it are used by the Railmen and other corps groups to gain experience for the championship competition held in August.

The drum and bugle corps consist of groups of young people between the ages of 13 and 21. In addition to percussion, other instruments include several different kinds of bugles and various brass instruments, as well as flags, rifles and dancers.

The Railmen are directed by Shane Macklin, who teaches band at Ralston High School, and combine the talents of young performers from high schools and colleges across Nebraska and throughout the Midwest.

The group tours the country during the summer months. Performing for vast audiences can be a growth experience for the young performers, Jordon said.

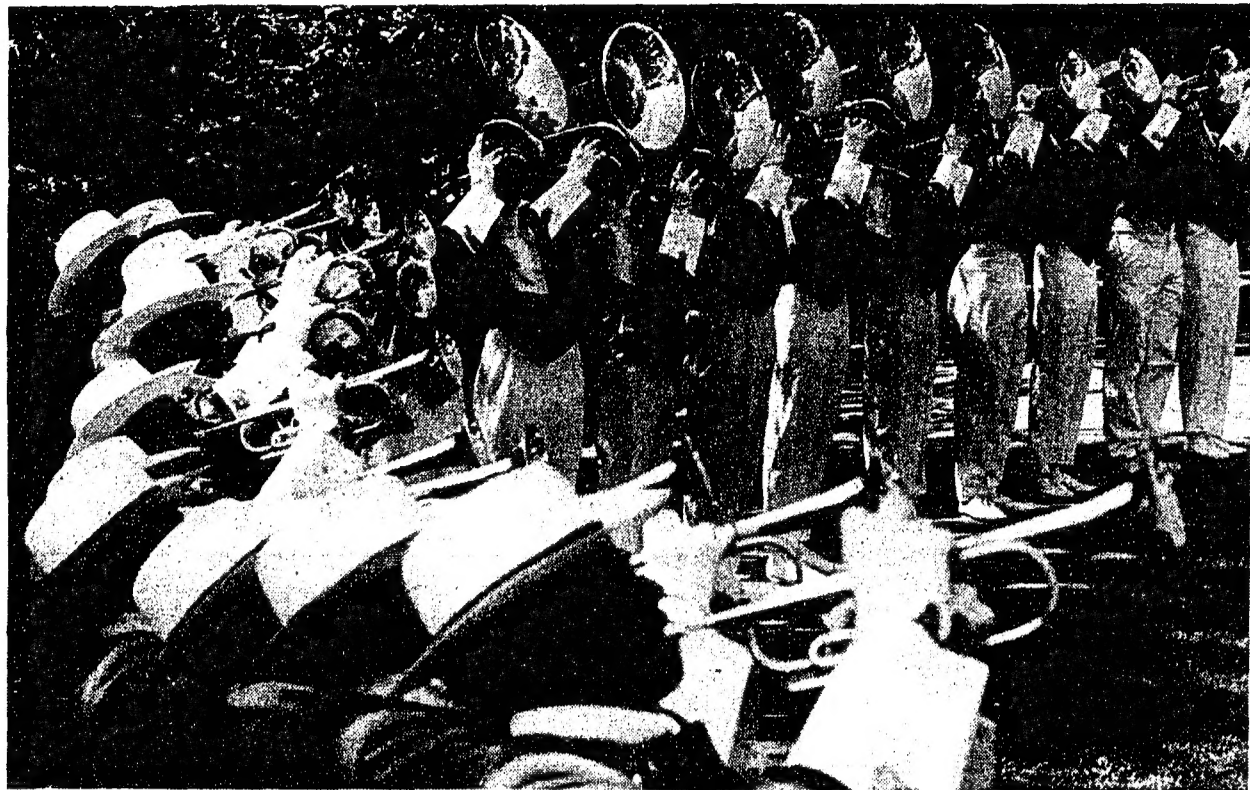
"They learn responsibility for themselves. They get to travel and learn to get along. The discipline is amazing," she said. "This is experience they don't get anywhere else. They really have to work toward a goal."

At "Drums Across the Midlands," audiences can expect to hear many different types of music. Jordon said one group once performed music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera." The Railmen will be performing jazz for this competition.

Jordon said groups are judged for individual pieces of the group, and then they are judged for the overall performance.

"They compete against other corps and themselves," she said. "They try to be better than they were the last time."

Monday's "Drums Across the Midlands" will feature the Railmen and two former world champions. The competition begins at 7:30 p.m. at UNO's Al F. Caniglia Field, and is open to the public. □



—STEVE JORDON

All Aboard Seven drum and bugle corps, including Omaha's own Railmen, above, will compete Monday night at "Drums Across the Midlands" at Al F. Caniglia Field.

McCartney and Kozol in Ames

Having a groovy time with the 'Fab One'

REVIEW BY GREG KOZOL

"We love corn."

That's what Paul McCartney said during his concert in Ames, Iowa, Wednesday. The "corn comment," an attempt to diffuse the mini-controversy surrounding McCartney's allowance of anti-meat literature at the concert, drew laughs and cheers from the crowd.

The statement, and the concert, showed that the 48-year-old McCartney can get away with things that probably would ruin any musician who hasn't been a Beatle.

Despite his pro-vegetarian sentiments, McCartney's wit won over fans from predominantly meat-producing states.

And despite the lack of Beatles and Wings, and a mediocre new album, McCartney wowed the crowd with a fantastic barrage of oldies, many never performed in concert until this tour.

When the concert started, I couldn't see McCartney, because my seat were slightly behind the stage.

So I watched what I thought was the concert on the large screen near the side of the stage. "He really looks young," I thought to myself.

The footage moved from McCartney to his band. "Hey, that's Ringo on drums," I said.

I continued to watch in disbelief. "George is on guitar," I screamed. "It's a Beatles reunion."

Next, I saw John Lennon playing guitar. I figured something was up.

Sure enough, the concert began not with a live performance, but with a 10-minute video chronology of McCartney's career — from mop tops and "Sgt. Pepper" to Wings and Michael Jackson.

The live concert began with McCartney singing "Figure of

Eight," from his current *Flow-ers in the Dirt* album.

Although McCartney didn't sing many songs from the new album, the ones he chose sounded better live than on tape, especially the acoustic "Put it There."

But it was the Beatles songs that brought the house down.

The barrage started with "Got to Get You into My Life" from 1966's *Revolver*.

After "Jet" and "Band on the Run" from his Wings days, McCartney electrified the Cyclone Stadium crowd with a thunderous version of the Beatles' "Birthday."

But the strength of the concert, and McCartney's career, was the variety of material he played.

During all-out rockers like "Live and Let Die," it seemed the upper ledge of the stadium, which I was standing on, would collapse from the force of feet

stomping. I even peeked over the railing to see how far the fall would be.

The stadium didn't collapse. And McCartney played much more than dance tunes like "Can't Buy Me Love," "Get Back" and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

If cigarette lighters piercing the summer darkness signal a great slow song, McCartney's "Let it Be" must be considered one of the greatest. The stadium appeared to be on fire while McCartney sang the 1969 hit. "The Long and Winding Road" and "Hey Jude" drew similar responses.

McCartney also pulled out lesser-known Beatles songs — like "Fool on the Hill," "Good Day Sunshine," "Things We Said Today" and "Carry that Weight."

The concert also featured a tribute to Lennon — McCartney's former song-writ-

ing partner. McCartney played innovative covers of tunes originally sung by Lennon — "Strawberry Fields Forever," "Help," and "Give Peace a Chance."

Of course, this wasn't the Beatles, and some of the songs suffered. "Eleanor Rigby" didn't click, mainly because McCartney's wife, Linda, butchered the "all the lonely people" line, and the violins sounded fake. "Back in the USSR" lacked the harmony of Beatle days.

And something seems strange about rocking with a guy that's as old as my dad.

In fact, the crowd was filled with more people my dad's age than my age (no dogs, though).

During the opening number, a woman with graying hair grabbed my arm and said, "Isn't he cute?"

"Not really," I thought.

But he still knows how to play groovy rock'n'roll, even if it is all that '60s stuff. □

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Dancing Horses Billy Bigelow (played by Jeff Mattsey) and Julie Jordan (Jayne West) are the ill-fated lovers in Opera/Omaha's production of 'Carousel.'

Original choreography returns in Omaha production of 'Carousel'

Carnivals always have had a sense of romanticism surrounding them. Perhaps it's the fact that one is never quite sure where the workers and performers came from, or if they ever will be seen again.

The carnival setting in "Carousel" provides a romantic setting for the bitter-sweet tale of a carnival barker whose ill-fated love for an innocent New England mill girl reaches out even past his grave.

Opera/Omaha's production of "Carousel" opened last night at the Orpheum Theater. According to Mary Robert, Opera/Omaha artistic director, this production of "Carousel" follows the original ideas of Rodgers and Hammerstein.

"You haven't experienced the magnificence of Rodgers and Hammerstein's finest musical until you've seen it performed true to their original vision," Robert said. "With breathtaking sets and costumes, glorious music and Agnes de Mille's original choreography, Opera/Omaha's 'Carousel' will be nothing short of spectacular."

"Carousel" originally opened on Broadway in 1945, and ran 890 performances, giving it the fifth-longest run of all Broadway musicals for that decade.

De Mille created the original choreography in 1945, but because of its difficulty, her choreography for "Carousel" rarely has been seen since its initial run.

"Our production will be a loving tribute to Agnes de Mille on the occasion of her 85th birthday," Robert said. "We are very pleased that Ms. de Mille plans to be in attendance."

The choreography for this production of "Carousel" will be recreated by Gemze de Lappe, who has been an associate of de Mille since de Lappe danced the lead in the original production of "Oklahoma!" De Lappe said de Mille's choreography

could be tough for performers.

"To dance Agnes' style requires a very special talent," de Lappe said. "One must not only be well-trained in ballet and modern dance, but must also be a serious dramatic actor."

Most of the dancers chosen for Opera/Omaha's production of "Carousel" came from Ballet Omaha's resident company.

"These dancers are terrific," de Lappe said. "I have enormous respect for their work, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with them."

Grammy Award-winner John DeMain, music director for Opera/Omaha, is conducting "Carousel."

"John is acknowledged as one of the top two or three conductors in musical theater," Robert said. "Watching him work simply fills one with awe."

Robert also said the casting of the show is superb. Jayne West is starring in the role of Julie Jordan. She has performed with the Boston Lyric Opera, the Opera Company of Boston, Connecticut Grand Opera, Houston Grand Opera and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Billy Bigelow is being played by Jeff Mattsey, who made his operatic debut with Luciano Pavarotti and the Opera Company of Philadelphia as a winner of the 1986 International Pavarotti Voice Competition.

"The heart of a production is the casting," Robert said. "We couldn't be more thrilled with the talent we've assembled. Everyone involved with the production believes this will be the quintessential 'Carousel'."

"Carousel" will run through Sunday, and then from July 26 to 29 at the Orpheum Theater. □

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RAILMEN-Omaha, NE
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MADISON SCOUTS-Madison, WI



Sponsored by the Railmen Drum & Bugle Corps

Friday, July 20

MUSIC:

Arthur's: On the Fritz
Chicago Bar: The Confidentials
Crazy Duck: The World
Dubliner: The Turfmen
Elmo Fudd's: Triple Play
Howard Street Tavern: Linoma Mashers
Saddle Creek Bar: The Jailbreakers
The 20s: Rock City
Winchester: Magnum

FILM:

College of Business Administration: "Plan 9 From Outer Space" — east lawn at 9:15 p.m. (rain location: Eppley Auditorium) — free admission

THEATER:

Chanticleer Theatre: "George M" at 8 p.m.
Circle Theatre at Vidlak's Family Cafe: "Bill and the Gang Say Bon Voyage to the Carlyle Hotel" at 7:45 p.m.
Firehouse Theatre: "Driving Miss Daisy" at 8 p.m.
Norton Theatre: "The Secret of the Hidden Gold Nugget Mine or Jenny Lind Revisited" at 8 p.m.
Upstairs Dinner Theatre: "Murder a la Carte" at 7 p.m.

COMEDY:

Funny Bone: Jeff Foxworthy, Mark Reedy, Troy Baxley at 8:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m.
Noodles: Dennis Butler, Cindy Eaton, Ron Osborne at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

OTHER OPTIONS:

UNO Mallory Kountze Planetarium: "The Message of Starlight" at 8 p.m.
Orpheum: "Carousel" at 8 p.m.

Saturday, July 21

MUSIC:

Arthur's: On the Fritz
Chicago: The Confidentials
Crazy Duck: The World
Dubliner: The Turfmen
Elmo Fudd's: Triple Play
Howard Street Tavern: Linoma Mashers
Saddle Creek Bar: The Jailbreakers
The 20s: Rock City
Winchester: Magnum

FILM:

College of Business Administration: "Plan 9 From Outer Space" — east lawn at 9:15 p.m. (rain location: Eppley Auditorium) — free admission

THEATER:

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Firehouse Dinner Theatre: "Driving Miss Daisy" at 8 p.m.
Norton Theatre: "The Secret of the Hidden Gold Nugget Mine or Jenny Lind Revisited" at 8 p.m.
Upstairs Dinner Theatre: "Murder a la Carte" at 7 p.m.

COMEDY:

Funny Bone: Jeff Foxworthy, Mark Reedy, Troy Baxley at 8:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m.
Noodles: Dennis Butler, Cindy Eaton, Ron Osborne at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Civic Auditorium: Country Peddler Show at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
UNO Mallory Kountze Planetarium: "The Power!" at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; "The Message of Starlight" at 8 p.m.
Orpheum: "Carousel" at 8 p.m.

Sunday, July 22

MUSIC: Arthur's: On the Fritz
Howard Street Tavern: The New Riddim Band (Reggae/Funk)
Saddle Creek Bar: The Jailbreakers

THEATER:

Chanticleer Theatre: "George M" at 2 p.m.

Firehouse Dinner Theatre: "Driving Miss Daisy" at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Norton Theatre: "The Secret of the Hidden Gold Nugget Mine or Jenny Lind Revisited"

Upstairs Dinner Theatre: "Murder a la Carte" at 1 p.m.

COMEDY:

Funny Bone: Jeff Foxworthy, Mark Reedy, Troy Baxley at 8:30 p.m.
Noodles: Dennis Butler, Cindy Eaton, Ron Osborne at 8 p.m.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Civic Auditorium Music Hall: Harry Connick, Jr. (jazz) at 7:30 p.m.
Civic Auditorium: Country Peddler Show at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
UNO Mallory Kountze Planetarium: "The Power!" at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Orpheum: "Carousel" at 2 p.m.

Monday, July 23

MUSIC:

Howard Street Tavern: Blues and Rockabilly
The 20s: Jack Ranson

THEATER:

Circle Theatre at Vidlak's Family Cafe: "Bill and the Gang Say Bon Voyage to the Carlyle Hotel" at 7:45 p.m.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Civic Auditorium: Motley Crue at 7:30 p.m.
UNO Caniglia Field: Drums Across the Midlands at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 24

MUSIC:

Arthur's: Topsy Alligator
Dubliner: Open Multimusic Jam hosted by Emerald Fyre
Howard Street Tavern: Urban Jazz, Jazz Jam — bring your instrument, beat the cover.
Saddle Creek Bar: Comedy Night with Ron Osborne
The 20s: Jack Ranson

THEATER:

Firehouse Dinner Theatre: "Driving Miss Daisy" at 8 p.m.

COMEDY:

Funny Bone: Bob Nickman, George McClure, Al Altur at 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 25

MUSIC:

Arthur's: The Jailbreakers
Dubliner: Martin Sneyd—from Dublin
Howard Street Tavern: Guerilla Theatre
Saddle Creek Bar: Acoustic Jam hosted by Earl Bates

THEATER:

Firehouse Dinner Theatre: "Driving Miss Daisy" at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Upstairs Dinner Theatre: "Murder a la Carte" at 1 p.m.

COMEDY:

Funny Bone: Bob Nickman, George McClure, Al Altur at 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 26

MUSIC:

Arthur's: The Jailbreakers
Dubliner: Beyond the Pale
Howard Street Tavern: Guerilla Theatre
The 20s: Jack Ranson

THEATER:

Firehouse Dinner Theatre: "Driving Miss Daisy" at 7:30 p.m.
Norton Theatre: "Dames at Sea" at 8 p.m.
Upstairs Dinner Theatre: "Murder a la Carte" at 7 p.m.

COMEDY:

Funny Bone: Bob Nickman, George McClure, Al Altur at 8:30 p.m.
Noodles: Joe Murray, Paul Dibiolo, Jon Desjardins 8 p.m.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Orpheum: "Carousel" at 8 p.m.

Sports Medicine Center called 'dream practice'

By MIKE GETTER

The Sports Medicine Center is a dream come true, according to Dr. Morris Mellion, one of the center's six founders.

"All of us are looking forward to a type of dream practice here, in which we have all of the preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitative facilities and personnel," Mellion said.

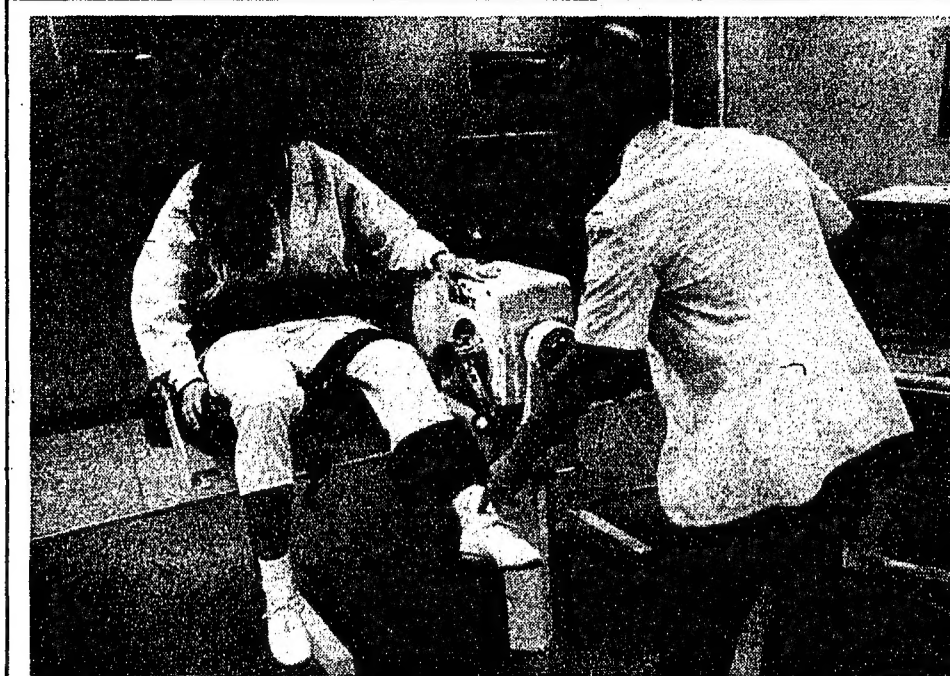
After an unsuccessful attempt at negotiating the expansion of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Sports Rehabilitation Center, Mellion said he and five counterparts — including the founder of the Sports Rehabilitation Center, Dr. W. Michael Walsh — decided to go ahead with the project alone.

"This is a project of expansion that the university did not feel comfortable accommodating," said Dr. Randall Neumann, a former resident at the Medical Center and one of the Sports Medicine Center's founders.

Now in its 10th week of operation, Mellion and Neumann agreed the Sports Medicine Center, located at 2255 S. 132nd St., may provide some competition for the Medical Center's Sports Rehabilitation Center.

However, he said the Sports Medicine Center is unique in its concentration of sports specialists, greater accessibility to their patients and the wide range of services they offer.

Neumann said the Sports Medicine



—Bob Wood

Physical Therapy Ron Hald, a physical therapist at the Sports Medicine Center, demonstrates the Blodex isokinetic dynamometer, used for testing and rehabilitating muscles, on fellow employee Julia Orsi.

Center also offers athletic training, which is usually limited to high school and college athletes.

Ron Hald, a physical therapist and an athletic trainer, said the new facility has

many advantages for the patient and the environment at the Sports Medicine Center also might be healthier for patients.

Mellion, Walsh, Hald and physical

therapist Guy Schelton left the Medical Center to devote more time to the Sports Medicine Center, according to Mellion.

"Sports medicine is a very cashy and flash business, and that's why we were noticed when we left the Medical Center," Hald said. "There's nothing wrong with being at the Medical Center, but some people just feel better coming to a setting like ours, rather than a hospital. This is mainly because they don't see themselves as ill."

"Most of our patients consider themselves athletes first and injured second. This setting allows us to decrease those types of anxieties."

While the center caters to "the athlete in everyone," Mellion said it will benefit all active people, not just athletes.

"We have three orthopedists, one family physician, four sport's physical therapists — three also are certified athletic trainers and one is an exercise physiologist," Mellion said, adding that they also expect to hire additional staff in the fall.

Although Mellion said the Sports Medicine Center needs some finishing touches — it is currently 85 percent operational — he said they are discussing plans for outreach clinics and educational programs.

"I hope to develop a preventive medicine program, which would include physical, athletic, emotional and nutritional

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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Allocation Committee may solve the problem

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Chief Administrative Officer Greg Clark wrote to Wiltse for an opinion on the matter. Some Student Government members, at the time, believed the agency directors were not covered by the resolution.

Wiltse upheld the vote and gave the opinion that the directors of Student Government's agencies could not be paid, amounting to a about \$10,000 "savings" each year for Student Government.

For fiscal year 1990-91, Student Government has earmarked \$10,000 from the contingency fund for director stipends, assuming they can be paid, according to Carter. "We still don't think they're Student Government officers," she added.

Wiltse's second "money-saving" opinion was released less than six months after his first.

The senate approved a funding request for KBLZ, UNO's student-run radio organization, at its June 15, 1989, meeting. Paula Effle, the president/regent at the time, vetoed the request on the grounds KBLZ did not meet the NU Board of Regents' guidelines for funding.

LETTER SENT AFTER VETO OVERRIDE

The senate later voted to override the veto, but Effle said she "wasn't sure the senate was doing the right thing." Effle said she had Carter write to Wiltse, requesting an opinion on the propriety of the senate's practice of funding student

organizations.

Wiltse responded by recommending the Student Senate stop allocating student-fee money to student organizations, based on the Board of Regents' 1978 policy on the use of UPFF monies.

According to the policy, Student Government was authorized only to fund organizations "established by and under the direct control of Student Government." Wiltse said he was unsure whether any student organization could receive UPFF funds.

"We (Student Government) spent almost \$14,000 in fiscal year 1988-89," Carter said, primarily on student organizations requesting funds to travel to conferences. "We never really got anything back for the university," she added.

REYNOLD'S SOLUTION PROPOSAL

Wiltse's opinion reduced the number of student groups eligible for funding from about 50 to seven: Student Government, its five agencies and the Gateway.

After a year of wrestling with the problem, the Student Senate has yet to find a solution. However, one is in the works, according to Reynolds.

"It's going to be something that has never been tried before," she said. Currently, Reynolds is working on a "rough draft" for a proposed "Allocation Committee."

Comprised of the Student Senate Budget Committee, four SPO members

and three students at large, the committee will probably be under Student Government, she said.

The Allocation Committee's funds, Reynolds said, would come equally from SPO's account and the Student Government contingency fund, with a spending limit set at \$10,000 per fiscal year.

The contingency account, which had been used since 1981 to fund student interests and organizations, is filled annually by the remainder of UPFF Fund A fees not allocated by Student Government — about \$26,000 for fiscal year 1990-91.

'STUDENT FEES COULD BE DECREASED'

Carter, however, said she hopes the new proposal will incorporate the idea of bringing something back to UNO, in exchange for student-fee money.

If not, she said she hopes the senate can find some positive way to use the money. "If we can't fund student groups, maybe student fees could be decreased," Carter added.

Reynolds said she also hopes to reinstate directors' stipends by modifying Student Government's bylaws with an amendment to specifically separate Student Government officers



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

assessment, and determine lifestyle changes that would look in a preventive way to the future," Mellion said.

Also the team physician for UNO Athletics, Mellion said he expects a lot of business from UNO.

And Tim Ellis, director of the Sports Medicine Center's athletic-training services, said he hopes to draw patients from Northeast Nebraska, Wayne State College and Peru State College.

One new addition which may attract more college athletes to the center is the

AquaTrex, an underwater treadmill.

Neumann said he believes the AquaTrex, often used for post-operative hip and knee injuries, may be the only one of its kind in Omaha and possibly the Midwest.

"As in any swimming, you are buoyant.

That takes some of the weight off when you are rehabilitating your lower extremities," he said, adding that he believes the Medical Center does not have anything comparable to the AquaTrex. □

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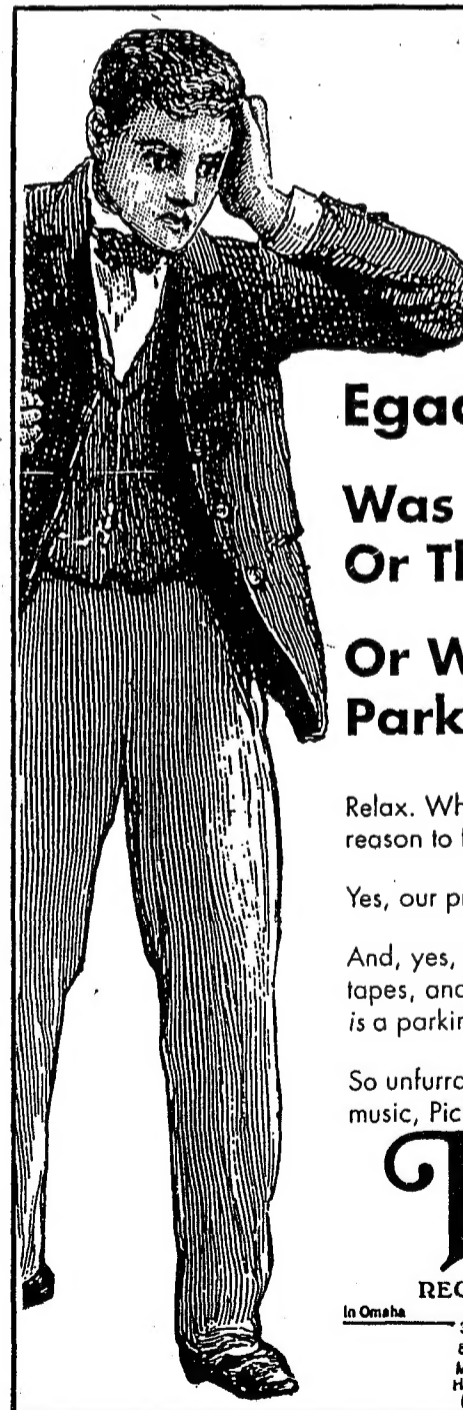
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THE BIG THAW: AFTER THE COLD WAR

Latvian says Baltic independence 'now or never'

By GREG KOZOL

Although Andris Skreija left Latvia at age 9, the UNO anthropology professor said there is still a little bit of his homeland left in him.

"For me, personally, it has been an important part of my identity," said Skreija, who emigrated from Latvia during World War II. "I never had the kind of problems a lot of young people had growing up. I never wondered, 'Who am I?' My only question was, 'What will I do?'"

Skreija moved to the United States in 1950 and received his Ph.D. in 1973 from the University of Minnesota.

"Being Latvian was something that differentiated me from someone else," he said. "I've always had a strong sense of self."

But Skreija said that sense of identity may disappear for Latvians who live in the mother country.

Although an independent nation between World Wars I and II, Latvia ultimately became part of the Soviet Union in 1939. Due to massive Soviet immigration

during the past 40 years, Latvians fear they may lose their centuries-old culture, Skreija said.

"There is a strong influx of other nationalities from the Soviet Union into Latvia," he said. "One concern is that this is a deliberate policy — trying to swamp the Baltic region with people of various backgrounds so the local nationalities will just disappear."

Today, the 1.5 million Latvians living in the Soviet republic account for half of the population.

"Before World War II, 75 percent of the country was Latvian," he said.

So Latvia, as well as two other Soviet republics in the Baltic region — Lithuania and Estonia — has demanded independence from the Soviet Union.

"There is a real feeling that it's now or never," he said. "Basically, if these countries do not secede in some way, gaining either complete secession or some sort of very strong separation from the Soviet Union, the ethnic groups are going to disappear. They see this as almost a last

chance to save their culture."

Latvia is located in the northwestern corner of the Soviet Union, near the Baltic sea. Being "Baltic," Skreija said, makes Latvian culture unique.

"We are not Germans and we are not Slavs (two ethnic groups that dominate the region), he said. "It (the culture) is quite fascinating."

Preserving the Latvian language, which has been superseded by Russian in recent years, is a major goal for independence-seeking Latvians, Skreija said.

But that independence will not come simply by signing a piece of paper, he said.

"When it comes to politics, the crux of the matter is they have to be allowed to secede," Skreija said. "Obviously, the Soviet Union has the power to stop them."

The Soviet Union's policy of glasnost, or "openness", led to the push for independence in the Baltic republics, Skreija said.

"(Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev made a mistake in timing, allowing Eastern Europe to get out too fast," he said.

"That raised expectations in the Baltics. Now he's going too slow."

And despite glasnost, Latvians still live in fear.

"The army and the police are still functioning," Skreija said. "All this openness hasn't affected those guys."

Still, government policy has changed enough for some of Skreija's Latvian relatives to visit Omaha last year.

"You have a resumption of kin relationships," he said. "What has changed is that people who are young can visit. My cousin and her daughter visited me last fall."

"Now it's just a matter of whether someone is willing to put up with your relative," he joked.

Skreija, who visited Latvia six years ago — before glasnost — said he would like to see his homeland again.

"Six years ago they made visitors stay in a hotel," he said. "It was very expensive. Now we can stay with relatives. Now you can go for just the price of an airplane ticket." □

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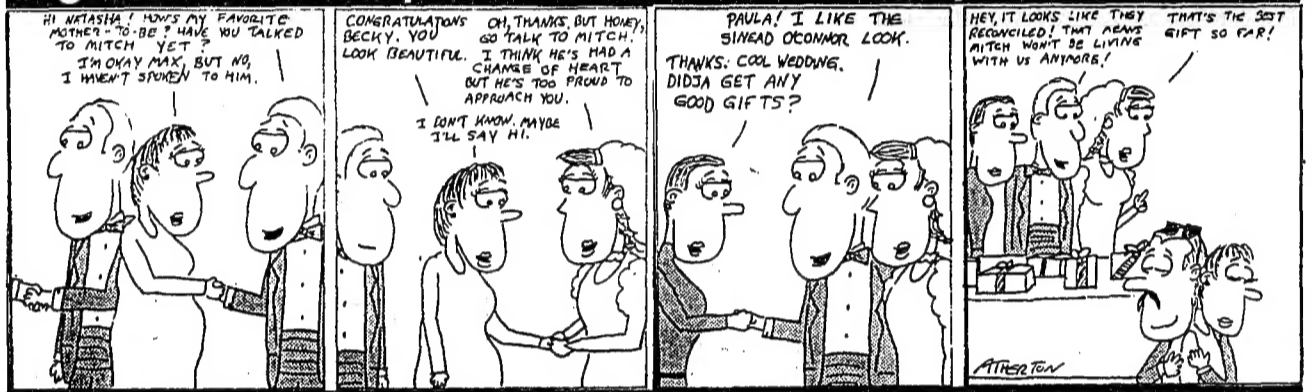
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